

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 PA-01 H-01  
SSM-03 SIG-03 PM-05 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 SP-02  
SS-15 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 OMB-01  
TRSE-00 /102 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WBHARRIS:RGH  
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN  
PA/PRS - MR. CARTER  
H - MR. FLATEN  
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW  
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH  
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER  
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY  
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM

-----093845 040334Z /14

O 040029Z APR 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY RABAT  
AMEMBASSY SANA  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
USMISSION SINAI  
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
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AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USMISSION USNATO  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY DOHA  
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
JCS WASHDC 0000  
CIA WASHDC 0000  
NSC WASHDC 0000  
DOD  
USIA

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD, TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - APRIL 3

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE  
EXCERPTS FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR APRIL 3, 1978.  
FYI ONLY, SPOKESMAN TODAY WAS THOMAS RESTON.

Q. CAN YOU ENLIGHTEN US ON ANY DECISION OR NEAR DECISION  
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THAT JUST TAKES AN INITIALING OR A SIGNATURE ON THE  
WHALEN-FINDLEY REQUEST FOR AN INQUIRY ON THE USE OF U.S.  
ARMS BY ISRAEL FOR ITS INVASION OF SOUTHERN LEBANON?  
IS THAT STUDY ABOUT DONE AND CAN YOU GIVE US SOME  
RESULTS?

A. THE STUDY IS NOT COMPLETE YET. THE STUDY WHICH WAS  
NOTED BY THE SECRETARY ON MARCH 24TH AND THE PRESIDENT  
IN BRASILIA ON MARCH 30TH IS STILL UNDER WAY AND NO  
CONCLUSIONS HAVE BEEN REACHED. I CANT TELL YOU EXACTLY  
WHEN WE WILL BE RESPONDING TO THE CONGRESSIONAL  
INQUIRIES.

Q. MY UNDERSTANDING OF THE LAW IS THAT NO CONCLUSIONS  
HAVE TO BE REACHED; THE PRESIDENT HAS TO REPORT TO  
CONGRESS WHEN THERE IS INFORMATION THAT A VIOLATION MAY

HAVE OCCURRED. HOW DO YOU AVOID THAT?

A. I AM NOT UP TO DATE ON WHAT THE LAW SAYS BUT I DO  
KNOW THAT THE SECRETARY IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE HERE SAID  
THAT THE INQUIRY WOULD BE REPLIED TO AND WE INTEND

TO REPLY TO IT.

Q. REPLY TO FAIRLY PROMPTLY I THINK HE SAID TOO.

A. I THINK THAT WAS HIS WORDING, YES.

Q. THAT IS MORE THAN TEN DAYS AGO.

A. YES. I AM JUST NOT IN A POSITION TO TELL YOU WHEN WE ARE GOING TO REPLY, BUT WE ARE COMMITTED TO REPLY.

Q. IS THIS A DECISION BASED SOLELY ON THE LEGAL FACTS OF THE CASE OR IS THERE SOME POLITICS INVOLVED?

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A. I IMAGINE THAT WE HAVE OUR LAWYERS LOOKING AT IT AND ANY NUMBER OF CONSIDERATIONS GO INTO THESE.

Q. THERE IS A REPORT IN THE BOSTON GLOBE LAST WEEK THAT SAYS THAT THE LAWYERS HAVE ALREADY CONCLUDED THAT A VIOLATION HAS OCCURRED. DO YOU DENY THAT?

A. LET ME SAY THESE THINGS GO FORWARD IN STAGES. OBVIOUSLY, ANY TIME WE STUDY A MATTER THERE ARE WORKING PAPERS WHICH MAY EXIST. THESE DO NOT REPRESENT ANY FINAL CONCLUSIONS OR THE POSITION OF THE DEPARTMENT. AND, OF COURSE, IT IS OUR POLICY NOT TO DISCUSS INITIAL DRAFTS AND THAT SORT OF THING.

Q. ARE YOU SAYING THAT WAS AN INITIAL DRAFT?

A. I HAVE NOT SEEN THE BOSTON GLOBE REPORT AND I DONT KNOW WHAT THEY MAY BE REFERRING TO.

Q. BESIDES THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT, WHO ELSE IS INVOLVED IN THIS STUDY?

A. I DONT KNOW. I WOULD PRESUME THAT THE MIDDLE THAT THE MIDDLE EASTERN BUREAU WOULD BE INVOLVED IN IT.

Q. YOU DONT SPEAK TO THE QUESTION THEN OF WHETHER THE LAWYERS MAY HAVE CONCLUDED THAT ON PURELY LEGAL TERMS A VIOLATION MAY HAVE OCCURRED, BUT THE DEPARTMENT HAS NOT DECIDED TO ENDORSE THEIR VIEW?

A. NO. I DO NOT SPEAK TO THAT QUESTION.

Q. YOU DONT DENY THAT REPORT THAT THE LAWYERS HAVE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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CONCLUDED THAT A VIOLATION HAS OCCURRED?

A. I DO NOT DENY OR CONFIRM. I AM JUST NOT AWARE.

Q. IT ISN'T CLEAR, OF COURSE, WHETHER THE WEIZMAN VISIT TO CAIRO AND ANY SUBSEQUENT VISIT, HAS ACCOMPLISHED ANYTHING. THERE ARE CONFLICTING REPORTS. BUT WE ARE INTERESTED IN KNOWING IF ROY ATHERTON WILL BE RETURNING TO THE MIDDLE EAST OR WHAT PROCEDURE THE UNITED STATES THINKS MIGHT BEST BE FOLLOWED IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE TO TRY TO BRING ABOUT A SETTLEMENT.

A. IN THE FIRST PLACE, I HAVE NOTHING ON MR. ATHERTON'S SCHEDULE. I KNOW OF NO PLANS FOR HIM TO GO BACK TO THE AREA. YOU MENTIONED THE WEIZMAN VISIT TO EGYPT. I AM AFRAID I REALLY DON'T HAVE MUCH TO SAY THERE, BUT AS YOU KNOW, WE WELCOMED DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN'S VISIT TO CAIRO LAST WEEK, AND WE CONTINUE TO WELCOME ANY DIRECT CONTACTS BETWEEN THE PARTIES WHENEVER AND WHEREVER THEY ARE POSSIBLE.

WE BELIEVE THAT THESE TALKS SHOW A FEELING IN BOTH EGYPT AND ISRAEL THAT IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE PROCESS STARTED AFTER THE JERUSALEM VISIT OF PRESIDENT SADAT CONTINUE.

WE SEE THIS VISIT IN TERMS OF THE ONGOING PROCESS TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THE DIFFERENCES THAT STILL SEPARATE THE PARTIES.

Q. THERE HAS BEEN AN ASSUMPTION THAT AT SOME POINT MR. ATHERTON WOULD RETURN TO THE MIDDLE EAST. THAT REALLY IS AN ASSUMPTION WE SHOULD MAKE, ISN'T IT?

A. I AM JUST IN THE UNFORTUNATE POSITION OF HAVING HEARD NOTHING ABOUT ANY PROSPECTIVE PLANS FOR  
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MR. ATHERTON TO RETURN TO THE AREA. I JUST CAN'T HELP YOU OUT.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY SENSE OF THE TIMETABLE ON WHEN 4,000 UN TROOPS WILL BE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON?

A. ON THE UNITED NATIONS FORCE IN SOUTHERN LEBANON,

FIRST OF ALL YOU SHOULD GET DETAILS OF THAT OPERATION FROM UN HEADQUARTERS; BUT AT PRESENT, ON BACKGROUND NOW,

UNIFIL HAS APPROXIMATELY 1100 TROOPS IN LEBANON, EXCLUDING THE NORWEGIAN UNIT. THESE ARE COMPOSED OF THE IRANIAN AND SWEDISH COMPANIES DRAWN FROM UNDOF AND UNEF. ALSO, THE FRENCH CONTINGENT, WHICH IS DEPLOYED IN THE TYRE AREA; AND AN ADVANCE PARTY OF THE NORWEGIAN CONTINGENT; A FEW CANADIAN COMMUNICATIONS PERSONNEL HAVE ALSO ARRIVED IN THE AREA.

NOW, AS TO WHEN THE NORWEGIAN CONTINGENT IS GOING TO ARRIVE, A 600-MAN NORWEGIAN CONTINGENT ARRIVED YESTERDAY AT TEL AVIV AND SHOULD BE TAKING UP ITS POSITIONS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON TODAY. THE U.S. ASSISTED, ALONG WITH WEST GERMANY, IN AIR-LIFTING THE NORWEGIAN TROOPS AND EQUIPMENT. AS TO OTHER COUNTRIES, THE GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL HAS AGREED TO PROVIDE A 600-MAN CONTINGENT; AND THE GOVERNMENT OF SENEGAL HAS ALSO AGREED TO PROVIDE A CONTINGENT.

Q. OF HOW MANY?

A. I DONT HAVE A NUMBER OF THE SENEGALESE. THE NEPALESE ARE EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN LEBANON IN MID-APRIL, BUT THE DATE FOR THE ARRIVAL OF THE SENEGALESE IS YET TO BE SET. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Q. AT WHAT POINT --

Q. COULD WE GO BACK TO THE QUESTION? DO YOU HAVE ANY SENSE OF THE TIMETABLE ON WHEN THE UN WILL BE ABLE TO FULFILL THAT 4,000-MAN CEILING?

A. NO, I'M SORRY, I DONT. BUT THAT IS THE BEST STATE OF PLAY THAT WE HAVE AT THE MOMENT.

Q. SO THE BEST STATE OF PLAY IS THAT IT MAY GET UP TO 1700, AND THEN YOU HAVE ANOTHER 600 COMING IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS MONTH, WHICH WILL BE 2300. ARE THERE ANY BIDS OUT FOR OTHER COUNTRIES?

A. IM NOT SURE THAT I WOULD PHRASE IT JUST LIKE THAT, BUT I IMAGINE THAT THE UNITED NATIONS IS TRYING TO INCREASE THE FORCES WHICH IT HAS THERE FOR THE PURPOSES OF MAINTAINING A PEACE.

Q. ARE YOU SURE THAT SENEGAL IS STILL INTERESTED IN SENDING FORCES? THERE IS A REPORT TODAY THAT IT HAS

BACKED DOWN.

A. IT WAS. AT LEAST, OUR INFORMATION, AS OF THIS

MORNING, IS THAT THEY STILL INTEND TO SEND SOME.

Q. ARE YOU SATISFIED THE ISRAELIS ARE WITHDRAWING  
FORTHWITH?

A. IM NOT SURE I HAVE ANYTHING ON THAT. THEY OF COURSE  
HAVE SAID THAT THEY PLAN TO WITHDRAW, BUT I DONT HAVE A  
JUDGMENT ABOUT THAT THIS MORNING.

Q. WHEN WOULD YOU EXPECT THEM TO WITHDRAW?  
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A. I DONT HAVE AN EXPECTATION. IM REALLY NOT IN A  
POSITION TO ENLIGHTEN YOU.

Q. ARE THEY OBLIGED TO WITHDRAW? WELL, TO REVERSE IT,  
CAN THEY REMAIN? DOES THE UNITED STATES BELIEVE THEY  
SHOULD BE ABLE TO REMAIN UNTIL THE FULL UN CONTINGENT  
IS IN PLACE?

A. I JUST AM NOT IN A POSITION TO DAY. I JUST DONT HAVE  
A POLICY IN FRONT OF ME TO EXPRESS TO YOU ON THAT ONE.

Q. IN THE EVENT THAT THE UN WAS UNABLE TO FURNISH, TO  
FULFILL ITS PROMISE OF 4,000 MEN, WOULD THE UNITED  
STATES THEN OBJECT TO THE ISRAELI PRESENCE IN SOUTHERN  
LEBANON?

A. IM NOT GOING TO SPECULATE ON SOMETHING WHICH MAY NOT  
OCCUR. WE TRUST THAT THE UN WILL BE ABLE TO FULFILL  
WHAT IT HAS PROMISED TO FULFILL. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** TEXT, PRESS CONFERENCES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 apr 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978STATE085758  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** WBHARRIS:RGH  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780144-0578  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780494/aaaadcgg.tel  
**Line Count:** 318  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 271e7db6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ORIGIN NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 6  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3079858  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - APRIL 3  
**TAGS:** PFOR, SOPN, XF  
**To:** AMMAN BEIRUT MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/271e7db6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014